



KANAWHA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION
301 VIRGINIA STREET EAST
CHARLESTON, WV. 25301
304-357-0169

Sheriff Joseph H. Crawford
Chief Deputy Sean D. Snuffer

NEWS / MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 12, 2025.

Contact: Sergeant Joshua L. Lester
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Criminal Vandalism of Transformer on Derricks Creek Road Causes Power Outage and \$3,000 in Damages

Sissonville, Kanawha County, WV – Appalachian Power (AEP) continues to face a series of costly thefts and acts of vandalism at its power sites, despite enhanced security measures. Yesterday, Kanawha County Deputies were dispatched to the Sissonville area following reports of a power outage on Derricks Creek Road caused by criminal damage to a transformer.

At approximately 1:45 p.m., AEP received the outage report. Upon assessment, AEP workers discovered that a transformer had been severely damaged—leaning off its pole and disrupting service on one of three distribution lines. Investigators at the scene found burglary tools and clear evidence that a suspect had scaled the pole and attempted to remove the transformer by unbolting it. Notably, one securing bolt resisted removal, and when workers followed the lines from the transformer, they uncovered approximately 632 feet of wire dangling from an adjacent pole. The investigation suggests that the disrupted transformer caused the lines to touch, generating a spark that burned and split the wires.

This single act of vandalism has resulted in an estimated \$3,000 in damages. AEP has noted that similar criminal activities have been under investigation in Jackson County, West Virginia, and there is growing concern that such thefts are beginning to target Kanawha County locations. The internal components of these transformers are highly valuable, making them a prime target for thieves.

In response, the Kanawha County Sheriff's Office has been working closely with AEP for several years to curb thefts and minimize damages at substations and other power sites. Recent security enhancements include increased measures at frequently targeted sites in eastern Kanawha County, with off-duty deputies now supplementing routine patrols. Kanawha County Patrol Deputies and Detectives are conducting timely, multi-jurisdictional investigations to ensure that those responsible for these costly criminal actions are held accountable.



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If you have any information regarding the incident on Derricks Creek Road, please contact Deputy W.E. Ingram at 304-357-0169. The community is urged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity near utility poles, power stations, or adjacent properties.



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